

## BOOK REVIEWS

ALLEN, C.M. 1992. **Grasses of Louisiana**, 2nd ed. (ISBN 0-9633191-0-8). Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society, P.O. Box 172, Eunice, LA 70535. \$30.00 postpaid, hardcover. iv + 320 pp.

"This updated, hardcover version contains keys and descriptions to more than 380 grass taxa growing without cultivation in Louisiana. The documented distribution by parishes for each taxon is presented in a checklist. Almost all taxa are illustrated with more than 370 illustrations." For more information, contact Charles Allen, Department of Biology, Northeast Louisiana University, Monroe, LA 71209, (318)342-1814.

SPERRY, N. 1991. **Complete guide to Texas Gardening (Revised edition of: Neil Sperry's complete guide to Texas Gardening)**. (ISBN 0-87833-799-7). Taylor Publishing Company, 1550 West Mockingbird Lane, Dallas, TX 75235. \$34.95, hardcover, 388 pp, numerous black/white illustrations and color photographs.

Contents include: Introduction, The beginnings of gardening, Planning your landscape, Trees for Texas, Shrubs, Vines, Groundcovers, Texas lawns, Annuals, Perennials, Fruits and nuts, Vegetable gardening, Appendix, Index, and Botanical Illustrations (148 line drawings of tree and shrub foliage).

BELL, P.R. 1992. **Green plants—their origin and diversity**. Dioscorides Press/Timber Press 9999 SW Wilshire, Portland, OR 97225. 315 pp.

This is an extensively revised edition of "Diversity of Green Plants" P.R. Bell and C.L.F. Woodcock (1983), and provides an impressively documented, near encyclopedic overview of plant morphology and diversity at both a macro- and micro-scale. There are numerous clearly labeled and informative illustrations, and overall documentation is extensive.

Geological data for each major taxonomic group are reviewed, and strong opinions are expressed on origins and inter-relationships of members of the plant Kingdom. These evolutionary opinions are both strengths and weaknesses of the book. While opinions are expressed and data are alluded to, the author's major conclusions are left unsupported (i.e., page 272 "Some have envisaged the angiosperms appearing in upland regions...as early as the late Paleozoic." A very important statement with no attributions or references!).

Bell's book is an excellent first look into problems of plant evolution as they relate to plant diversity. General goals of providing an overview of a highly complex field are met, however, serious students will find it mainly useful as a starting point for more interesting in-depth studies.—*Clair R. Ossian*.